

August 30, 2004

**Fluoride Mouthrinse Program Offered in Some Area Schools**

A weekly fluoride mouthrinse program will be offered to students in grades one through six at several local elementary schools during the coming school year. Schools involved in the program include: Mountain View in Burley; Acequia, Big Valley, Memorial, and St. Nicholas in the Rupert area; schools in Carey, Dietrich, Richfield, Heyburn, Paul, Wendell, and Shoshone; and the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind. Research shows that children who participate in school fluoride mouthrinse programs have 30-40% percent fewer cavities.

The fluoride mouthrinse program is sponsored by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, South Central District Health, and the participating school districts.

Drinking water that contains fluoride is the best and easiest way to protect the teeth from decay. In areas where water fluoride levels are low, the school mouthrinse program gives children the protection of fluoride.

More than 40,000 Idaho children participate each week in the fluoride mouthrinse program. Children who take fluoride tablets or receive topical fluoride treatments in the dental office may also rinse at school. The mouthrinse program takes about 5 minutes per week and is a safe, economical, and easy way to prevent tooth decay.

For more information about the school fluoride mouthrinse program, please call Susie Beem, Dental Health Coordinator for South Central District Health, at 734-5900, ext. 246.

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